



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**JORDAN, JOHN LELAND**  
**(1869-1950)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1898-1942**

*Processed by:*

Marylin Bell Hughes and Harriet Chappell Owsley  
Archival Technical Services

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Papers of John Leland Jordan were placed with Tennessee State Library and Archives by Mrs. J.S. Jordan of Macon, Georgia, John L. Jordan, Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr. Robert Womack of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure 1.60 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the John Leland Jordan Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The John L. Jordan Papers comprise one hundred pieces of correspondence; one scrapbook; a sketch, "Triune in the Civil War"; one genealogical notebook; several photographs covering the years 1898 to 1942; a deed of William Jordan to John Wood, 1790; the wills of Edward Jordan (1791), Elizabeth Jordan (1795), and Samuel Jordan (1760); a genealogical letter (1905); a genealogical chart; and an article "The Jordan Lineage" compiled by Mrs. Irvine L. Miller of Hyattsville, Maryland. The bulk of the materials consists of detailed daily accounts of Captain Jordan's early military experiences contained in letters written to his mother which he requested that she keep as a form of diary for the years 1898-1903. This correspondence reveals conditions and movements of the American troops in Cuba and the Philippine Islands, as well as a description of the aftermath of the Spanish American War in both countries.

Included in the genealogical data are accounts of academies, churches, election practices, and places of business in existence in the Triune, Tennessee area before and shortly after the Civil War. The photographs are predominately family pictures, both individual and group, with one large photograph showing the Field, Staff and Line officers of the 38<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry Division.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **John Leland Jordan**

- 1869 Lieutenant Colonel John Leland Jordan was born and reared near Triune, Tennessee in Williamson County. He was the son of Josiah Turner and Elizabeth King Jordan, pioneer settlers of the Nelson Creek Valley in Triune. He was educated at Hardeman Academy, a boys school in Triune, and later graduated from the Commercial College of Kentucky.
- 1889-1898 Became Secretary of the General Passenger Department of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway.
- 1898-1899 Enlisted as a captain in the 4th Tennessee Infantry. Served in Cuba until March 24, 1899.
- 1899-1901 Reenlisted as a captain of the 38<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry and proceeded to the Philippine Islands where his division helped clear out insurrectionists until June 2, 1901.
- 1901 Mustered out of the 38<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry and appointed to the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the regular army with the rank of First Lieutenant.
- 1903 Returned to the Philippines and was in charge of construction of the army post, Camp Downs, on the island of Leyte.
- 1912 Transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry and served at Yuma, Arizona and Monterey, California.
- 1916-1917 Transferred to an army hospital at San Francisco where he was retired for disability incident to the service in September 1917.
- 1918-1922 Lived in California
- 1922 Spent a large part of the rest of his life in and around Nashville and Triune, but later stayed in Florida or California for considerable periods of time because of failing health.
- 1950 Died and was buried in the family plot of the cemetery at Triune Methodist Church.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Jordan, John L. – Correspondence – Cuba – July 4, 1898 - April 24, 1899.
2. Jordan, John L. – Correspondence – Philippine Islands – May 30, 1899 - April 15, 1900
3. Jordan, John L. – Correspondence – Philippine Islands – April 28, 1900 - December 19, 1900
4. Jordan, John L. – Correspondence – Philippine Islands – January 2, 1901 - October 8, 1901
5. Jordan, John L. – Correspondence – Re-enlistment in U.S. Army – July 10, 1903-March 4, 1904
6. Jordan, John L. – Correspondence – Miscellaneous – 1898-1942
7. Jordan Papers – Loose items
8. Jordan, John L. – Sketch – Philip H. Sheridan
9. Jordan, John L., – Sketch – “Triune in the Civil War”

### **Box 2**

1. Jordan Family of Triune – Notebook – Genealogy
2. Jordan Family – Photographs
3. Jordan, John L. – Recollections
4. Jordan Family – Genealogy
5. Deeds and Wills – 1760-1791

One volume separately wrapped -- Scrapbook